THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and wheat during the current 1992-93 kharif marketing season and 1993-94 rabi marketing season respectively has reached the highest level achieved so far.

(b) A total quantity of 130·24 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured in the country as on 23rd July, 1993 during 1992-93 kharif marketing a season which includes a quantity of 12·50 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) procured by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which do not contribute rice for the central pool.

Procurement of wheat during 1992-93 rabi marketing season was 63·80 lakh tonnes. However, a total quantity of 128·29 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured during the current 1993-94 rabi marketing season as on 23rd July, 1993.

(c) and (d) No decision has yet been taken by the Government to export wheat and rice from Government stocks during the year 1993-94.

Licences issued for opening of New Sugar Mills

706. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have since decided to issue licences to 69 sugar mills in the country during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the break-up of these sagar factories, State-wise; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken to open new sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The letters of Intent for setting up of new sugar factories are issued by the Ministry of Industry on the basis of recommendations of screening committee/Licensing Committee keeping the financial and technical viability of the projects and the Liencensing Policy Guidelines. In view of this the exact number of new sugar mills to be licensed during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise, would be known only after the secrutiny of the applications by the said committees.

(c) After the screening process is complete, the recommendations will be considered by the Licensing Committee in the Ministry of Industry for issuance of letter of intent/licences, to open new sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh.

Regular audit in the godowns of F.C.I.

707. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether audits are carried out regularly in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India.

(b) if so, the number of times these were carried out during the last three years, godown-wise;

(c) the drawbacks pointed out in the audit reports and the remedial action taken thereon;

(d) the extent of loss suffered by the Food Corporation of India during each of the last three years; and

(e) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to minimise the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Food Corporation of India have reported